## **Marine Invaders**

# Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

Asian Shore Crabs on the loose!
Multiplying by the thousands!!!
Destroying our habitat!!
Are we doomed?!!
Or can we do something to stop them?

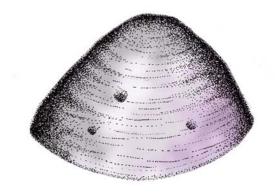
Help National Park Scientists learn more about these invaders and stop this epidemic!





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#### **Marine Invaders**



To the Teacher:

Under the rocks, along the shores of Jamaica Bay, you will find hundreds of an unusual species of crabs, a species of crabs that wasn't always there. Where did these crabs come from? What are they eating? How will they affect our ecosystem? With your help, we can solve these questions and many more. Have your class become citizen scientists for the National Park Services and help scientists understand more about this unusual species of crabs.

By participating in this program, students will learn about the Asian Shore Crabs and how they are invading the shores of Jamaica Bay. They will learn where these crabs are coming from. How they are getting here from their original homeland and things they can do to help the situation. They will also understand what invasive species are. Why they are bad for our ecosystem and what makes these crabs invasive.

Inside this package, you will find answers to why your students should participate in this program. There are also pre and post assignments for the program and a list of job titles for the students. A general outline of the program along with contact information in case you ever need help with the program or the materials can be found in this packet as well.

Enclosed in this package is a list that has sections of the State of New York Curriculum Standards and NYC Scope & Sequence Guidelines that support this program. This program will cover the concepts of Human Impacts on the Environment, Definitions of Species, Ecosystems, Measurements, Relationships among Organisms, Factors Affecting Population Growths and more.

This program should be conducted four times throughout the year during low tides. The first time will be led by a Park Ranger. The teacher, who will lead the program the last three times, will then gain an understanding on how the program should be conducted. During the first trip to Jamaica Bay, a Park Ranger will explain how the bay works as an ecosystem and discuss crabs and their life cycles. He/ she will demonstrate seining (fishing with a fishing net that hangs vertically in water) to find what lives in the ecosystem. The Park Ranger will also go over basic scientific study protocols for the program.

Jamaica Bay is one of the three units of Gateway National Park. It is located in the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. Jamaica Bay consists of 12,000 acres of water and shores. This includes Floyd Bennett Field, Canarsie Pier, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, and Plum Beach.

The National Park Service (NPS) has had jurisdiction over Jamaica Bay since 1972, but it has been around for decades before that. Today, NPS works to restore Jamaica Bay. Jamaica Bay is home to over 300 species of birds such as the Green Heron and the Herring Gull and many other organisms









#### <u>CURRICULUM STANDARDS – STATE OF NEW YORK</u>

6

<u>STANDARD</u> <u>GRADE</u>

Science, Unit 4, Interdependence

Global Warming and human impact

LE 7.2d, PS2.2r, ICT 1.4, 2.1-3, 4.1, 5.1-2, 6.1-2, IPS 1.3 *Populations & definition of species* 

LE 1.1h, 7.1a

**Ecosystems** 

LE 7.1a, 7.2a-b, ICT 1.2

Factors affecting population growth

LE 7.1b

Relationships among organisms

LE 3.2a, 7.1c-d, 7.2c

Effects, environmental changes

LE 7.2a-d, 7.1e, ICT 5.2

Living Environment Standard 4 High School

Using science to study the living environment & physical setting

Mathematics, Science & Technology High School

Measurement 3.5 Uncertainty 3.6 Patterns & Functions 3.7

*Impacts of Technology* 5.6

English Language Arts High School

Standards 1 & 3





#### **Job Descriptions**



## Class should be split into two groups, each containing the following jobs:

- 1. <u>Tossers:</u> -tosses the bean bag over his/her shoulder so it lands on a random section of the rocky sea shore.
  - -places four meter sticks on the grid around the bean bag creating a quadrant.
- 2. **Observers:** -Observer chooses three "large"rocks within the quadrant for sampling
  - -observer places 3 CDs provided on 3 sampling spots.
  - -observer measures the dimensions of the footprint or the rock and calls out measurements to recorder
  - collects samples of organisms found in the footprint or the rock and places them in the sampling jar
- 3. <u>Flipper/Grabber</u>- flips a rock to reveal sand under rock.
  - replaces crabs under rocks once photographer has taken picture
- 4. **Recorders:** records information about crab gender and size. Recorders enter all information on data sheets.
- 5. **Photographer:** takes a picture of crabs in basin and organisms in the trays







#### **Outline of Program:**

Protocol – purpose: to find out how many of these crabs are on a rocky beach in a given month. What is the relationship between males and females? What does it mean to have one large male and dozens of small female crabs live under one rock? What else lives with them?



- I. Creating a Quadrant
  - Tosser will toss the bean bag over his/her shoulder so it lands on a random section of the rocky sea shore.
  - b. Then he/she will place four meter sticks on the grid around the bean bag creating a quadrant.



- II. Marking the spots
- a. Observers will choose three "large rocks" within the quadrant for sampling.
- b.Observer will place 3 CDs provided on the 3 sampling spots (rocks).



- III. Finding Footprints
  - a. One or two flippers/Grabbers flip a rock to reveal sand under rock.



b. This outline in the sand will now be known as the footprint.









#### IV. Observing Life In the Footprints

- a. Observer will measure the dimensions of the footprint and call out the measurements.
- b. Observers will collect samples of organisms found in the footprint and place them in the sampling jar.

#### V. Recording Data



- a. Recorder 2 will put information about size and gender of the crabs on the data sheet.
- b. Recorder 1 helps recorder 2 document the data.



c. Recorders enter all information on data sheet. If the organisms listed on the data sheet are not present, enter "0." Do not leave any blank.



- VI. Photographing the data
  - a. Photographer takes a picture of crabs in basin and organisms in the jars.
- VII. Finishing with spot
  - a. Replace crabs back under the rock
- VIII. Repeat procedure over again with a different spot.





#### The **SO WHAT** behind the Program...

Why should we care???

Where did these Asian Shore Crabs come from and how did it get here?

They came from the waters of Southern Russia to Hong Kong. They arrived here in Cape May County, NJ in 1988 through incoming ships of global trade via ballast water discharge.

Why do we need to know about them?

They out-compete native organisms for the necessary resources for survival. They disrupt habitats causing damage to natural ecosystems. They are actively breeding and expanding their population. They are very reproductive. They breed from May to September and they are twice the length of native crabs.

What don't we know?

There are several things we don't know about these crabs: what eats them? What do they eat? What is the relationship between the male and female genders? What else lives with them?

What should we do?

We should help National Park Service Scientists, do research and collect data. You are the first Citizen Scientists to do this research. Your research is highly valued!

How should we do it?

Work in collaborative groups, assign jobs, and carefully collect data and carefully record data. Also make good observations and report findings and come up with more questions.

Any experiments you would like to try???



#### Materials Needed...

#### You will find the following materials in the box provided...

- 2 bean bags
- 8 meter sticks
- 6 CDs
- 2 rulers
- 4 sampling jars
- 2 trays
- Gloves
- 2 Data sheets

#### Supply your own...

- Camera
- 2 clip boards







# SAMPLE WORKSHEETS

SAMPLE

Quadrat 1

SANPLE

Spot 1A: Length <u>law</u>.
Width law.
Area 910 102

Spot 18: Length 12.0. Width 9.10.

Area 108.02.

Spot 1C: Length 140.
Width 7.0
Area 98.02

Crab Gender Key
(only for crabs
measuring greater
than 1 cm)

Challenge: If you discover organisms in your quadrat that are NOT UNDER ROCKS, write the names of the organisms, and mark their positions relative to the rocks on your grid.

Instructions: Fill out all Quadrate information on this data sheet. Each space on I	
his data sheet requires an answer with a number. Some LE	

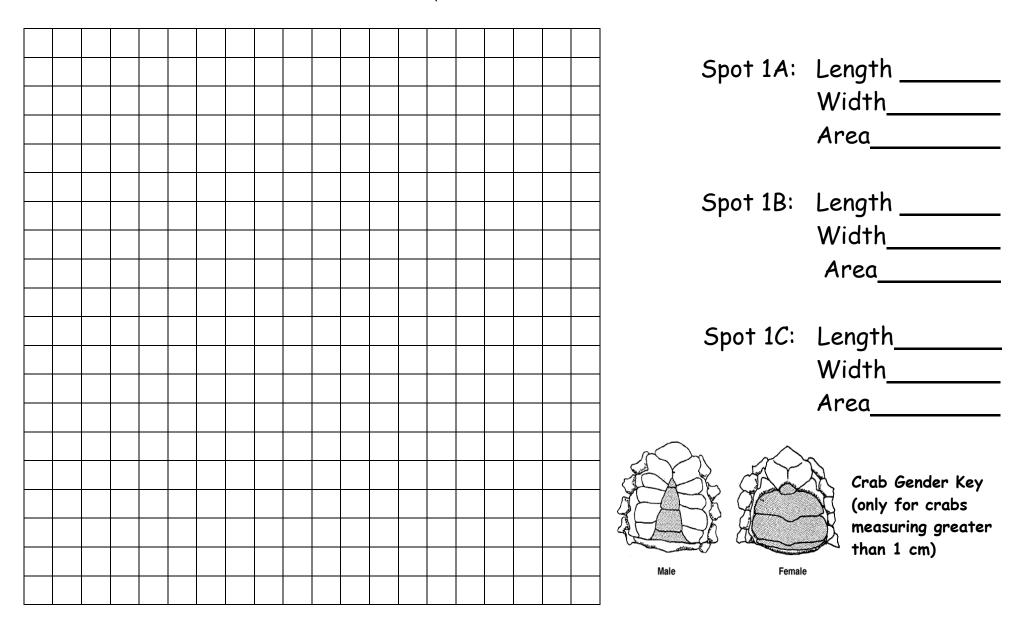
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Other	Irish Moss	Rockweed	Sea Lettuce	Plant	Name of		Other	Jack Knife	Slipper Shell	Quahog	Gem Clam	Blue Mussel	Ribbed Mussel	Common Periwinkle	Shell	Name of		Mud Snail		Sand Shrimp	Name of Organism		Other	Rock Crab	Lady Crab	Green Crab	Spider Crab	Crab	Asian Shore	Name of Crab	
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Other	Irish Moss	Rockweed	Sea Lettuce	Plant	Name of		Other	Jack Knife	Slipper Shell	Quahog	Gem Clam	Blue Mussel	Ribbed Mussel	Common Periwinkle	Shell	Name of		Mud Snail	,	Sand Shrimp	Name of Organism		Other	Rock Crab	Lady Crab	Green Crab	Spider Crab	Crab	Asian Shore	Name of Crab	
<b>)</b>	0	0	0		# of Plants		б	0	b	0	0	0	W	0		# of shells		-	0		# of Organisms		0	00	ď	O	٥	-		# of Crabs	Spot 1
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																		0	6		# of Organisms			,,,				1	3-F	Gender (M/F)	1
								37	gn	45	5								37	9	nt	5									

# ACTUAL WORKSHEETS

	Spo	t 1A			Spot	1B			Spot	1C					
Name of Crab	Size (cm)	Gei	nder (M/F)	Name of Crab	Size (cm)	Gende	er (M/F)	Name of Crab	Size (cm)	Gende (M/F)					
Asian Shore Crab	(cm)			Asian Shore Crab	(cm)			Asian Shore Crab	(cm)	(1/2/1)					
Mud Crab				Mud Crab				Mud Crab							
Green Crab				Green Crab				Green Crab							
Name of Crab	# (	Of Crabs Fo	ound	Name of Crab	# O	f Crabs Found	d	Name of Crab	# Of	Crabs Four	abs Found				
Lady Crab				Lady Crab				Lady Crab							
Rock Crab				Rock Crab				Rock Crab							
Spider Crab				Spider Crab				Spider Crab							
Name of Organism	# of Organisms	Name of Organism	# of Organisms	Name of Organism	# of Organisms	Name of Organism	# of Organisms	Name of Organism	# of Organisms	Name of Organism	# of Organisms				
Sand Shrimp		Clam Worm		Sand Shrimp		Clam Worm		Sand Shrimp		Clam Worm					
Mud Snail		Barnacle & Other		Mud Snail		Barnacle & Other		Mud Snail		Barnacle & Other					
Name of Sho	ell	# Of She	lls	Name of Shell		# Of Shells		Name of Shell	#	Of Shells					
Common				Common				Common							
Periwinkle				Periwinkle				Periwinkle							
Ribbed Musse	1			Ribbed Mussel				Ribbed Mussel							
Blue Mussel				Blue Mussel				Blue Mussel							
Gem Clam				Gem Clam				Gem Clam							
Slipper Shell				Slipper Shell				Slipper Shell							
Jack Knife				Jack Knife				Jack Knife							
Other				Other				Other							
Name of		# Of Plar	nts	Name of		# Of Plants		Name of	#	Of Plants					
Plant		011141	- +~·	Plant				Plant	"						
Sea Lettuce				Sea Lettuce				Sea Lettuce							
Rockweed				Rockweed				Rockweed							
Irish Moss				Irish Moss				Irish Moss							
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Instructions: Fill out all Quadrate information on this data sheet. Each space on this data sheet requires an answer with a number.

### Quadrat 1

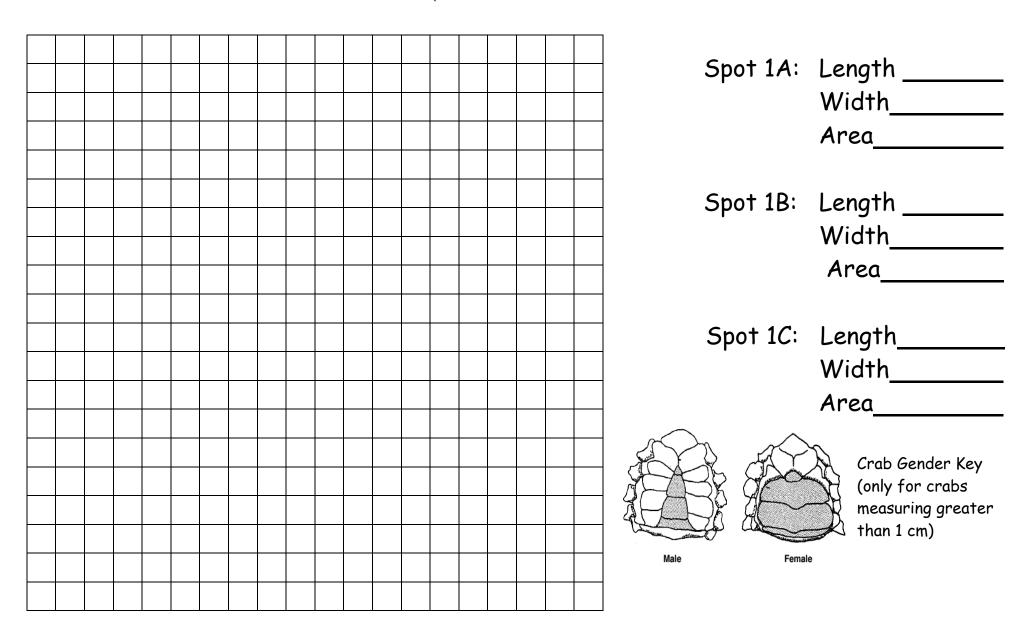


<u>Challenge</u>: If you discover organisms in your quadrat that are NOT UNDER ROCKS, write the names of the organisms, and mark their positions relative to the rocks on your grid.

	Spo	t 2A				Spot	2B				Spot	2C				
Name of Crab	Size (cm)	G	ender	(M/F)	Name of Crab	Size (cm)	Ge	ender	· (M/F)	Name of Crab	Size (cm)	Gende (M/F)	r			
Asian Shore Crab		# (	Of F	# Of M	Asian Shore Crab		#(	Of F	# Of M	Asian Shore Crab		# Of F	# Of M			
Mud Crab		# (	Of F	# Of M	Mud Crab		# (	Of F	# Of M	Mud Crab		# Of F	# Of M			
Green Crab		# (	<u>Of F</u>	# Of M	Green Crab		# (	Of F	# Of M	Green Crab		# Of F	# Of M			
Name of Crab	#	Of Crabs	Found	l	Name of Crab	# (	Of Crabs I	Found	d	Name of Crab	# Of	Crabs Foun	ound			
Lady Crab					Lady Crab					Lady Crab						
Rock Crab					Rock Crab					Rock Crab						
Spider Crab					Spider Crab					Spider Crab						
T					- F											
Name of Organism	# of Organisms	Name of Organism	# of	Organisms	Name of Organism	# of Organisms	Name of Organism	1	# of Organisms	Name of Organism	# of Organisms	Name of Organism	# of Organisms			
Sand Shrimp		Clam Worm			Sand Shrimp		Clam Wo	orm		Sand Shrimp		Clam Worm				
Mud Snail		Barnacle & Other			Mud Snail		Barnacle & Other			Mud Snail		Barnacle & Other				
Name of Shel	1	# Of Sh	ells		Name of Shell		# Of She	lls		Name of Shell	#	Of Shells				
Common Periwinkle					Common Periwinkle					Common Periwinkle						
Ribbed Mussel					Ribbed Mussel					Ribbed Mussel						
Blue Mussel					Blue Mussel					Blue Mussel						
Gem Clam					Gem Clam					Gem Clam						
Slipper Shell					Slipper Shell					Slipper Shell						
Jack Knife					Jack Knife					Jack Knife						
Other					Other					Other						
Name of		# Of Pla	nts		Name of		# Of Plan	nts		Name of	#	Of Plants				
Plant		" OIII			Plant		" OTTIAL			Plant						
Sea Lettuce					Sea Lettuce					Sea Lettuce						
Rockweed					Rockweed					Rockweed						
Irish Moss					Irish Moss					Irish Moss						
Other					Other					Other						
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**Instructions:** Fill out all Quadrate information on this data sheet. Each space on this data sheet requires an answer with a number.

### Quadrat 2

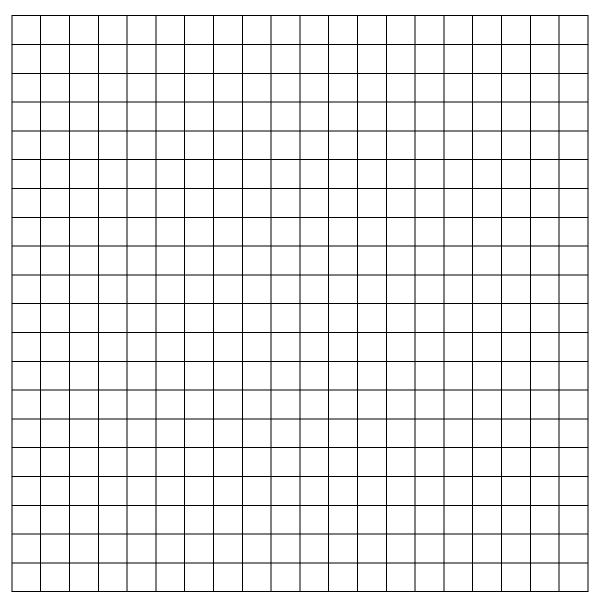


<u>Challenge</u>: If you discover organisms in your quadrat that are NOT UNDER ROCKS, write the names of the organisms, and mark their positions relative to the rocks on your grid.

	Spo		Spot	t 3B				Spot	3C				
Name of Crab	Size (cm)	e (cm) Gender (M/F) Name of Size Gender (M/F) Crab (cm)		r (M/F)	Name of Crab	Size (cm)	Gendo (M/F)	er					
Asian Shore Crab		# (	Of F	# Of M	Asian Shore Crab			# Of F	# Of M	Asian Shore Crab		# Of F	# Of M
Mud Crab		# (	Of F	# Of M	Mud Crab			# Of F	# Of M	Mud Crab		# Of F	# Of M
Green Crab		# (	Of F	# Of M	Green Crab			# Of F	# Of M	Green Crab		# Of F	# Of M
Name of Crab	#	Of Crabs	Found		Name of Crab	# (	Of Crab	os Foun	d	Name of Crab	# Of Crabs Found		
Lady Crab					Lady Crab					Lady Crab			
Rock Crab					Rock Crab					Rock Crab			
Spider Crab					Spider Crab					Spider Crab			
	•										<u>-</u>		
Name of Organism	# of Organisms	Name of Organism			Name of Organism	# of Organisms	Name Organ		# of Organisms	Name of Organism	# of Organisms	Name of Organism	# of Organisms
Sand Shrimp	Clam Worm		Clam Worm		Sand Shrimp	Clam		ı Worm		Sand Shrimp		Clam Worm	
Mud Snail		Barnacle & Other			Mud Snail		Barna & Oth			Mud Snail		Barnacle & Other	
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Name of She	S11	# Of Sh	ells		Name of Shell		# Of S	Shells		Name of Shell	#	# Of Shells	
Common Periwinkle					Common Periwinkle					Common Periwinkle			
Ribbed Musse	1				Ribbed Mussel					Ribbed Mussel			
Blue Mussel					Blue Mussel					Blue Mussel			
Gem Clam					Gem Clam					Gem Clam			
Slipper Shell					Slipper Shell					Slipper Shell			
Jack Knife					Jack Knife					Jack Knife			
Other					Other					Other			
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Name of Plant		# Of Plan	ıts		Name of Plant		# Of P	lants		Name of Plant	7	Of Plants	
Sea Lettuce					Sea Lettuce					Sea Lettuce			
Rockweed					Rockweed					Rockweed			
Irish Moss					Irish Moss					Irish Moss			
Other					Other					Other			
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**Instructions:** Fill out all Quadrate information on this data sheet. Each space on this data sheet requires an answer with a number.

## Quadrat 3



Spot 1A: Length \_\_\_\_\_ Width \_\_\_\_ Area\_

Spot 1B: Length \_\_\_\_\_

Width\_\_\_\_

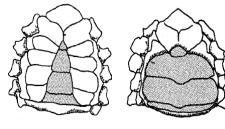
Area\_\_\_\_

Spot 1C: Length\_\_\_\_

Width\_\_\_\_

Area\_\_\_\_

Crab Gender Key (only for crabs measuring greater than 1 cm)



**X** 

<u>Challenge</u>: If you discover organisms in your quadrat that are NOT UNDER ROCKS, write the names of the organisms, and mark their positions relative to the rocks on your grid.

# Reference Guide

#### **Spider Crab**



Brown, has long legs and has spikes.

#### **Lady Crab**



Pink shell is covered with spots; has paddle-like legs on back.

**Mud Crab** 



Has two black-tipped claws, and indent between teeth.

#### **Green Crab**



Black/green body, has hairy back legs. Has 5 marginal teeth on each side of eyes.

#### **Rock Crab**



Red/purple fan shaped shell.

# WARNING MaRiNe InVaDeRs

#### **Asian Shore Crab**



Striped legs, small

#### **Chinese Mitten Crab**



Has hairy front claws



# Other Organisms: Sand Shrimp



Mostly white; < 2 inches

#### **Clam Worm**



Little hairs come out from its sides

#### **Mud Snail**



Like tiny black rocks with white heads

#### **Barnacle**



Round with hole on top, 1 in. (2.54 cm)

## <u>Shells:</u>

#### **Ribbed Mussel**



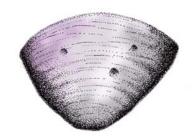
Beige/black shell with lines across it

#### **Blue Mussel**



Black and blue and smooth

#### Gem Clam



< 1/8 in. (.32 cm) Glossy smooth shells or with concentric ridges.

#### **Slipper Shell**



< 1.5 in. (3.81 cm), looks like slipper, and is purple/ white.

#### **Jack Knife Clam**



Long, smooth hard shell

## Plants:

#### Sea Lettuce



Green/ dark green; lettuce floating in the water

#### **Rockweed**



Yellow/ deep green; bulbs at the end

#### **Irish Moss**



Purplish/red; near rocks; 7-10 in. (17.8-25.4 cm) tall